

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 BIB-01  
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /073 W  
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R 271430Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9956  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIS WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0746

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS

REF: LISBON 0539 (DTG 191701Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: THE INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS CONVENED IN LISBON  
JAN 27. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT  
THE COMMUNISTS MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS.  
CONSEQUENTLY, THE SOCIALISTS HAVE POSTPONED A LABOR  
STRATEGY SESSION UNTIL AFTER THE INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS  
RESULTS ARE KNOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS CONVENES: WITH A CLAIMED  
ADHERENCE OF 272 UNIONS, REPRESENTING SOME 80 PERCENT  
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OF THE UNIONIZED LABOR FORCE, INTERSINDICAL OPENED  
ITS FOUR-DAY "ALL UNION NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS"  
IN LISBON JAN 27. MAIN PURPOSES OF THE CONGRESS  
ARE TO REAFFIRM INTERSINDICAL'S PRIMACY AS THE  
SINGLE RECOGNIZED LABOR CONFEDERATION, TO REINFORCE  
THE IDEA OF LABOR UNITY, AND TO INCORPORATE SMALL  
INDEPENDENT UNIONS -- UNTIL NOW UNAFFILIATED WITH

INTERSINDICAL -- INTO THE CONFEDERATION.

2. PS EXPELS LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS: THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY DECIDED ON JAN 26 TO EXPEL LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS ANTONIO AIRES RODRIGUES, CARMELINDA PEREIRA, JOSE LUIS MENDES, AND FRANCISCO FURTUNATO. EXPULSION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A FIFTH DISSIDENT, HENRIQUE GOMES DA COSTA, WERE REFERRED TO THE PS LISBON FEDERATION. THE EXPULSIONS WERE A FOREGONE CONCLUSION FOLLOWING THE JAN 20 RELEASE OF THE PS WHITE PAPER DOCUMENTING "TROTSKYSITE" INFILTRATIONS WITH THE PARTY. DESPITE THEIR EXPULSION, AIRES RODRIGUES AND CARMELINDA PEREIRA RETAIN THEIR SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE UNLESS THEY JOIN ANOTHER PARTY. COMING ON THE EVE OF BOTH THE INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS AND THE SECOND PART OF THE PS CONGRESS IN OPORTO, THE EXPULSIONS HELP DEFINE THE LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE DISSENT WITHIN THE PS.

3. COMMENT: INTERSINDICAL'S LEADERS MADE A GREAT SHOW OF HOLDING PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE LABOR CONGRESS IS INDEED FOLLOWING DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES AND IS OPEN TO ALL PORTUGUESE UNIONS. THESE EFFORTS WERE TO SOME DEGREE COUNTERED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIONS IDENTIFIED WITH THE OPEN LETTER (CARTA ABERTA) MOVEMENT, WHICH HAVE HELD A SERIES OF WELL PUBLICIZED SECRET BALLOT REFERENDUMS. THIRTY-FOUR UNIONS REJECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERSINDICAL-CONFIDENTIAL

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SPONSORED CONGRESS, NEARLY ALL BY DECISIVE MARGINS, THUS REFUTING INTERSINDICAL'S CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE OVERWHELMING MASS OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS.

4. EMBASSY EXPECTS SOME DISSIDENCE WITHIN THE CONGRESS BY DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS OBJECTING TO THE PCP MONOPOLY OF INTERSINDICAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. THE ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY OF THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN CAREFULLY RIGGED, HOWEVER, TO CONTAIN EASILY SUCH EFFORTS.

5. THE CONGRESS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF LABOR POLITICS. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE PCP MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS BY SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY LEADER SALGADO ZENHA THAT LABOR UNION ELECTIONS INCORPORATE SOME FORM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. THE SOCIALISTS CONSEQUENTLY HAVE POSTPONED A LABOR STRATEGY MEETING UNTIL AFTER INTERSINDICAL

CONGRESS IS CONCLUDED AND ITS RESULTS CAN BE ASSESSED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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